Passengers Facilities at Cochin Airport

1983. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need for providing more facilities for the passengers at Cochin Airport;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take immediate steps for the development of Cochin Airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The existing airport at Cochin belongs to Indian Navy. Technically it is not possible to modify and extend the existing terminal building. A new airport at Nedumbassery, at a distance of 24 kms. from present the airport, is being constructed by Cochin International Airport Limited and is expected to be completed within one year.

Hardships to Passengers Due to Setting up of Bazar Plaza

1984. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the passengers are facing hardships due to setting up of a Bazar Plaza besides the Cab Road of Howrah Railway Station;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the movement of passengers were restricted by this Bazar and hinderances to the public during the peak hours;

(c) if so, whether any steps to be taken to shift the Bazar Plaza in consultation with the Vendors and Catering Staff of Howrah North Wing Vending Stall;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) There is no Bazar Plaza inside Howrah Station. However, for smooth flow of passengers, some stalls have been shifted from the South Concourse to the North Concourse in an area which is protected by iron grill fencing. Moreover, shifting of stalls from South Concourse has been also necessitated due to preposed reconstruction of double discharge facilities.

Increase in the Air Fare

1985. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been increasing air fare since 1995 again and again; and

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given to the N.E. Region States since 1995?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Indian Airlines has increased its fares on domestic sectors w.e.f. 1st October, 1995 by an average of 20% and w.e.f. 22nd September, 1996 on an average of 16.3% respectively.

(b) No subsidy has been given for operation of services to North Eastern region since 1995.

Enhancement of Fare

1986. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.4136 dated December 19, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the Government have come to the conclusion that many passengers may not like to avail this facility and because of bedrolls to all passengers may require enhancement of fare;

(b) if so, whether the provision of providing the bedrolls does not fall under passenger amenities;

(c) whether any survey is being conducted about the opinion of the passengers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Considering the fact that bed rolls may be required by the passengers travelling in AC3-Tier coaches, bed rolls are being supplied to all the passengers travelling in AC 3-Tier coaches of Rajdhani Express trains by including the bed roll charges in the fare itself. In the case of trains other than Rajdhani Expresses, Zonal Railways have been advised to supply bed rolls on demand to passengers travelling in AC 3-Tier coaches on realising the prescribed charges.

(c) Survey is conducted from time to time to obtain the opinion of the passengers on passenger amenity items including supply of bed rolls.

(d) Does not arise.

Modern Exchange at Muvattupuzha in Ernakulam

1987. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to commission a Modern Telephone Exchange at Muvattupuzha in Ernakulam district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A 5,000 lines Modern Telephone exchange at Muvattupuzha is planned.

(c) The exchange is likely to be functional during Ninth Five Year Plan.

Construction of Fly Over

1988. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to construct fly over at Liluah, Mourigram and Rishra;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. For Liluah and Mourigram only.

(b) and (c) Road Over Bridge at Liluah was approved in 1988-89 and Road Over Bridge at Maurigram has been included in Works Programme 97-98. State Govt. has neither awarded contract for their portion of work nor have they commenced any work for Liluah Road Over Bridge. Railway will take up the work once State Govt. commence their portion of work.

For Road Over Bridge at Rishra State Government has not sponsored the proposal as yet.

Telephone Dues

1989. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount outstanding as telephone dues against the Members of Parliament and ex-Member of Parliament as on December 31, 1996, Member-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to recover this amount;

(c) whether any complaints from the Members of Parliament about excess billing have been received by the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The recovery of outstanding dues is being pursued with concerned MPs/Ex-MPs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) On receipt of complaints from MPs, detailed reports are called for from the concerned units, Based on these, the cases are decided after careful examination. The MPs are thereafter replied to individually.

Financial Assistance

1990. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought financial assistance in the form of soft loans and grants from Germany for upgrading and modernising telecommunication systems in Indian Railways;

(b) whether Germany, on its part, has offered assistance in developing multi-modal transportation systems;

(c) if so, the nature of assistance and mutual co-operation offered by Germany viz., equipment, installation and commissioning of the system and eventual indigenous manufacture by transfer of technology in various fields of telecommunication in the Indian Railways; and

(d) its technical and financial implications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Indian Railways have sought German assistance in the form of loan for improving of signalling between Ghaziabad and Kanpur. The package includes train radio communications. A proposal in this regard was processed through the Ministry of Finance to KfW/Germany who had a feasibility study done.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It will be financial assistance in the form of loan.

(d) It will be known after the study is finalised.

New Telephone Exchange In Mumbai

1991. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new telephone exchanges in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which all the wait listed persons are likely to get telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of new telephone exchanges set up upto February, 1997 and likely to be commissioned in March, 1997 during the year 1996-97 are given in Statement I and II respectively.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Wait listed persons as on date are likely to get telephone connections by June, 1997 except in a few technically non-feasible pockets.